

A Stream of Consciousness. Open Letter to all Members of the Inglenok Community

by Richard Haney, Principal Teacher (written during Spring break when fully relaxed)

ANGER

After spending all last Summer organizing and all Winter break catching up with administration, I was almost totally depleted just before the Spring break. My first year as a Principal has brought out my best but I guess also my worst. I found that I got angry very easily towards the end of last term. I grew up in an environment where anger was freely expressed (and it led to real troubles). I now have finally come to see anger as probably my (our) worst enemy. I have made a commitment to myself not to get angry for two years to see how it works out. Each time I fail, if I fail, I will immediately admit my wrong to the receiver of my anger.

For example, to Dave Hine: I was wrong in being angry about the booze incident.

to Katie & Lynn: I was wrong in being angry about the Math 12 scene.

to Ann Swartley: I was wrong in being angry about the sitting position problem.

I have had a good Spring break and I come back raring to go, anew and refreshed. I hope this is true for you too. Let's erase the blackboard and start a new lesson.

The Ontario Assoc. of Alternative and Independent Schools (of which we are a member) has a new, full time organizer who will be fighting at Queen's Park for funding for books, supplies, transportation, etc. for schools like ours. Donations (tax deductible) are needed to help pay the salary of Lyle McBurney, the organizer. Please send them to:

Bob Routledge

c/c General Foods

2200 Yonge St., Tor. attention: O.A.A.I.S.

The Politics class while on a "field trip" discovered a nice park hidden behind the gas station on the North East corner of Yonge & Mac Pherson. Check it out.

The Board will be choosing a Principal for next year at its June Meeting. I will be running and I would really enjoy competition for the position.

We now have a van for field trips. Most of the teachers have been cleared by the insurance company to drive it. If one of them wants to rent it for personal use, there will be a daily rate. The van is owned by the school not by any one individual.

We are negotiating with the Theosophy Society about the use of one big room upstairs for a Study Hall - a quiet place for studying or meditation.

There are many activities coming up for Fridays. Please check the bulletin board on this matter. Please help make these electives successful.

We need pop cases for student book racks. Please bring in any large size cases that you come across.

Our new Math teacher for next year (part-time, mornings) is Cheryl Gewurtz. We are still interviewing for a Social Studies teacher for next year.

Mrs. Sandra Rennie has been elected to the Board of Directors.

Anyone interested in being on the Staffing and Admissions Committee, please tell Richard or Dave. Also, anyone knowing any students who would benefit from a school like ours but who cannot afford it, have them approach us as a bursary student. Anyone who would like to co-ordinate action to approach community centres etc. on this matter, please contact Richard or Janet.

Outreach Projects should be in high gear now. The object of them is to expose students to extra-curricula matters (hopefully, especially other classes and value systems).

Every Friday at 3 p.m. (unless a field trip or seminar is planned), there will be a discussion with Richard on the problems and joys of running a school. Open to anyone.

Every Saturday at 1 p.m., there will be a fix-up, spruce-up crew in the school beautifying the place. Please come in work clothes.

The initial idea of the school was that it be "student-oriented", not student run. It is General Membership (including parents & teachers)/ Board run. Everyone has access to changing the school but they must learn how to do it through co-operative channels.

The General Membership elects a Board. The Board elects a Principal. The Principal chooses the Vice-Principal and the Staff. All this is done in "consultation with" students. All policy and administration matters are the domain of the Board. All educational and internal matters are the domain of the Principal and Staff.

Remember - "Our School" means that everyone should be doing some part of the work load. There is always work to be done. If you don't see anything that needs to be done, just check with the office for some work.

We have an open door policy generally in our office but it must not be abused. When you enter check to see if the person on duty is busy or not before running in with a question or complaint etc.

A WORD OF WARNING - Too many meetings take students' energy away from subject matter. Students are generally learning rather than teaching or administrating at a school. Right?

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Meeting - Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Open to observation by but not participation of General Members (except by deputation).

General Meeting - Tuesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

- How are we doing in fulfilling the Objects of our school?
- Philosophical Changes?
- How to change things at Inglenook School.

Ample time will be allowed for parents to meet with and talk with all teachers. Please bring food or drink to share with others. Tea will be served.